

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to pre-empt their regular stations' programming to air an anti-Kerry documentary, "Stolen Honor," just days before the election is a clear violation of their licensing agreement. It is a far stretch of the truth to call such biased and one-sided productions "news" and thus not be liable to offer a counter-program (as chosen by Kerry's representatives) in the same prime-time slot.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. When large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Sinclair needs to receive a strong warning from the FCC that if they proceed as planned, their license will be revoked.

Enforce the laws that you were sworn in -- and are paid for -- to protect.